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**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (original) An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:
  - a nozzle assembly;
  - a canister assembly pivotally mounted to said nozzle assembly;
  - a suction fan and motor carried on one of said nozzle assembly and said canister assembly; and
  - a biaser having a first end engaging said nozzle assembly and a second end engaging said canister assembly so as to provide a positive downforce urging a forward end of said nozzle assembly toward a surface to be cleaned.
2. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said biaser is a spring.
3. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said biaser is a torsion spring.
4. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said nozzle assembly includes a hollow stub shaft received within a groove in said canister assembly, said stub shaft cooperating with said groove to define an axis for pivoting movement of said canister assembly with respect to said nozzle assembly.

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5. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 4, wherein at least a portion of said spring is received in said hollow stub shaft.

6. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 5, wherein said canister assembly includes a channel adjacent said groove and said second end of said spring is elongated and is received in said channel.

7. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 6, wherein said channel is formed by a box rib on a wall of said canister assembly.

8. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 6, wherein said hollow stub shaft includes a slot through which said second end extends into said channel.

9. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said biaser provides between about 1.2 and about 3.2 lbs/sq. in. of preload.

10. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said biaser provides between about 2.0 and about 2.4 lbs/sq. in. of preload.

11. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said biaser provides between about 0.2 and 3.0 lbs/sq. in. of downforce on a forward end of said nozzle assembly.

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12. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said biaser provides a downforce of between about 0.8 and about 1.6 lbs/sq. in. on a forward end of said nozzle assembly when said canister assembly is positioned at about a 135° included working angle with respect to said nozzle assembly.

13. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 1, wherein said biaser provides a downforce of about 1.2 lbs/sq. in. on a forward end of said nozzle assembly when said canister assembly is positioned at about a 135° included working angle with respect to said nozzle assembly.

14. (currently amended) An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:  
a nozzle assembly;  
a canister assembly pivotally mounted to said nozzle assembly;  
a suction fan and motor carried on one of said nozzle assembly  
and said canister assembly; and  
means for biasing a forward end of said nozzle assembly toward  
a surface to be cleaned wherein said biasing means is a torsion spring.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

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17. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 14, wherein said nozzle assembly includes a hollow stub shaft received within a groove in said canister assembly, said stub shaft cooperating with said groove to define an axis for pivoting movement of said canister assembly with respect to said nozzle assembly.

18. (currently amended) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 17, wherein at least a portion of said torsion spring is received in said hollow stub shaft.

19. (currently amended) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 18, wherein said canister assembly includes a channel adjacent said groove and ~~said second end~~ an end of said spring is elongated and is received in said channel.

20. (original) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 19, wherein said channel is formed by a box rib on a wall of said canister assembly.

21. (currently amended) The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 19, wherein said hollow stub shaft includes a slot through which said ~~second end~~ extends into said channel.

22. (currently amended) ~~The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 14;~~  
An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:

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a nozzle assembly;  
a canister assembly pivotally mounted to said nozzle assembly;  
a suction fan and motor carried on one of said nozzle assembly  
and said canister assembly; and  
means for biasing a forward end of said nozzle assembly toward  
a surface to be cleaned wherein said biaser biasing means provides between  
about 1.2 and about 3.2 lbs/sq. in. of preload.

23. (currently amended) ~~The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 14;~~  
An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a nozzle assembly;  
a canister assembly pivotally mounted to said nozzle assembly;  
a suction fan and motor carried on one of said nozzle assembly  
and said canister assembly; and  
means for biasing a forward end of said nozzle assembly toward  
a surface to be cleaned wherein said biaser biasing means provides between  
about 2.0 and about 2.4 lbs/sq. in. of preload.

24. (currently amended) ~~The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 14;~~  
An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a nozzle assembly;  
a canister assembly pivotally mounted to said nozzle assembly;  
a suction fan and motor carried on one of said nozzle assembly  
and said canister assembly; and

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means for biasing a forward end of said nozzle assembly toward a surface to be cleaned wherein said biaser biasing means provides between about 0.2 and 3.0 lbs/sq. in. of downforce on a forward end of said nozzle assembly.

25. (currently amended) ~~The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 14;~~  
An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a nozzle assembly;  
a canister assembly pivotally mounted to said nozzle assembly;  
a suction fan and motor carried on one of said nozzle assembly  
and said canister assembly; and

means for biasing a forward end of said nozzle assembly toward a surface to be cleaned wherein said biaser biasing means provides a downforce of between about 0.8 and about 1.6 lbs/sq. in. on a forward end of said nozzle assembly when said canister assembly is positioned at about a 135° included working angle with respect to said nozzle assembly.

26. (currently amended) ~~The upright vacuum cleaner of claim 14;~~  
An upright vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a nozzle assembly;  
a canister assembly pivotally mounted to said nozzle assembly;  
a suction fan and motor carried on one of said nozzle assembly  
and said canister assembly; and

means for biasing a forward end of said nozzle assembly toward

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a surface to be cleaned wherein said ~~biase~~ biasing means provides a downforce of about 1.2 lbs/sq. in. on a forward end of said nozzle assembly when said canister assembly is positioned at about a 135° included working angle with respect to said nozzle assembly.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)